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## Equalization program enters second year

**F**or the second year, the Missouri State Library will award equalization payments for public libraries in counties where it is difficult to provide library and information resources. The Missouri General Assembly approved and Governor Carnahan signed an appropriation of \$500,000 to fund the equalization program.

These funds are made available as a supplement to the per capita payments made to all libraries certified to receive state aid. The Missouri statutes governing state aid provide that equalization payments may be made to county, city/county, urban public, or consolidated libraries. For FY2000, equalization payments will be distributed to 32 libraries. Secretary of State Bekki Cook has approved a plan to distribute funds targeted to libraries with the most need.

To determine library districts with the most need, counties were ranked top to bottom on assessed valuation and percent

of people in poverty. Funds will be distributed first to counties with the highest level of poverty and the lowest amount of assessed valuation. Funds will be distributed next based on a percentage ranking of the two factors.

Since eligibility for the equalization program is determined by county, a regional library may have one or more counties eligible for equalization funds but not necessarily all counties of the library.

"We are excited about the opportunities afforded by this program," said State Librarian Sara Parker. "Libraries are using these funds to expand traditional and new library services for their counties. There is great potential for these funds to assist libraries in meeting standards, improving library services for Missouri citizens, and accomplishing the goals outlined for Missouri libraries in the long-range plan, *Charting Missouri's Library Future Into the New Century* (Missouri State Library, 1997).

## Book Your Summer

### Missouri's new Teen Summer Reading Program

This year, the State Library introduces Missouri's first Teen Summer Reading Program. Developed by a committee of librarians who work closely with teens, the new program offers a variety of materials for library staff to use in their promotion efforts.

The art for the 2000 program, featuring a sunburst motif, is the work of Danny Dye, graphic artist for the Springfield-Greene County Library. Program materials include clip art slicks, a four-color poster and bookmark, and a 140-page manual. The manual contains lots of ideas for summer library activities and

suggestions gleaned from a series of training workshops on young adult library services last year.

The program's theme, *"Book Your Summer,"* will be retained in subsequent years, although different artwork will be created each year. The same manual will also be used each year.

The State Library has mailed start-up kits of program materials to all public libraries and branch libraries in the state. For more information about the program, contact Nancee Dahms-Stinson, youth and senior services librarian, at 800-325-0131, ext. 5.

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Check out **newsline online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsline/newsline.asp>

## State Library sponsors literacy gatherings

Twenty-eight people from libraries and other literacy organizations attended the first round of Literacy Gatherings, sponsored by the State Library during November and December, 1999. The ongoing purpose of these gatherings is to discuss and share ideas about the library literacy scene in Missouri and to suggest directions the State Library might take to help library literacy programs in the future.

Literacy Gatherings were held at Sikeston Public Library, Seymour Public Library, Macon Public Library, and Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence.

Participants discussed the variety of literacy programs and services, the impact of local situations, and offered ideas "from the trenches" for local literacy activities. Recent changes that affect literacy activities in Missouri include a new ABE State Plan, the appointment of a new ABE director (Jon Warren), increased government interest in literacy related to welfare reform, increased interest in family literacy, and the possibility of an increased emphasis on literacy by the American Library Association.

Most Missouri public libraries provide some type of literacy service or are involved in literacy activities in their communities. They provide special collections, meeting rooms for tutoring, referrals to local literacy programs, and tutor training. Due to changes in adult education programs and the growth of the family literacy concept, the shape of library literacy services is changing. In previous years, the most popular library literacy offering was a collection of books for adult new readers. However, several participants pointed out that new reader collections don't circulate. No matter where these collections are shelved, they look different from other adult materials, and people may not want to be seen checking them out. Librarians representing small communities said that confidentiality is a problem for tutoring or checking out cer-

tain low-level materials. Others said getting the message to social services workers is often difficult; for example, written notices from social service agencies won't bring people to literacy programs. Further problems include the lack of active ABE programs in small towns where there are also few library resources, transportation problems, theft of GED materials, and learning disabled people "falling through the cracks."

To address some of these problems, participants offered the following suggestions:



Put a deposit or rotating collection of new reader materials in an ABE center.



Present "on the road" programs for both literacy and civic groups.



Develop connections between library services to children and family literacy programs.



Make GED books widely available, despite problems.



Hold workshops for adults on helping children with homework and other school-related topics.



Invite ABE classes to visit the library on a regular basis as well as adults from a Family Literacy Center and teen parent groups; reserve computers and other materials for the groups.



Tutor school children, either by individual volunteers or through formal homework helpers programs. These services have proven popular and needed in both large and small communities.

In 2000, Literacy Gatherings will be held in the spring and fall. The State Library will announce dates and locations in a mailing to public libraries and library branches.

For a summary of the Literacy Gatherings, contact Karen Jones, the State Library's Literacy Coordinator at 800-325-0131, ext. 11, or [jonesk@sosmail.state-mo.us](mailto:jonesk@sosmail.state-mo.us).

## Missouri Learner's Network

Missouri Learner's Network is being established to inform learners about off-campus educational opportunities offered by Missouri's post-secondary institutions (both public and private). Scheduled to be launched by the summer of 2000, the Missouri Learner's network will catalog off-campus credit courses in an electronic database that will be made available on the World Wide Web. Using this tool, the network will inform learners about distance education opportunities available from Missouri's colleges and universities, and will provide information about financial aid, library services, registration, credit transfers, and career exploration. The network is a voluntary project among Missouri post-secondary institutions and is being sponsored by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Missouri Learner's Network will not conduct courses or grant degrees. Its purpose will be to share information, promote educational opportunities offered by Missouri institutions, and refer students to participating institutions for educational programs, course offerings, and learner services.

The Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at the University of Missouri will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the project.

## New MOBIUS library "cluster" becomes operational

Five central Missouri academic libraries are the newest "cluster" to go online with MOBIUS, the common library platform project for Missouri college and university libraries.

The "Arthur Cluster" includes Columbia College, Lincoln University, Stephens College, Westminster College, and William Woods University. These institutions are using their new INNOPAC system as their online library catalog and for circulating library materials to patrons.

The common library platform will create a "virtual collection" of some 14 million items in Missouri academic libraries and create a single user interface that allows faculty and students to request library materials using any personal computer in any location with access to the Internet.

MOBIUS users enjoy speedy service from member libraries, with daily delivery service provided under a contract with LANTER Delivery Systems. Delivery is next day from any member library.

Eventually 49 academic libraries in 11 clusters will constitute the MOBIUS system. Next to go online will be St. Louis area community college libraries and libraries in southwest Missouri.



## Web Watch

### BookHive

[www.bookhive.org](http://www.bookhive.org)

More than 50 children's librarians from the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (NC) contribute reviews of children's books for this newly launched site. The site offers reviews from 21 categories, and searching is available by author, title, illustrator, reading level, reading interest, category, and number of pages.

### Helping.org

[www.helping.org](http://www.helping.org)

This site is a one-stop resource to help people find volunteer and giving opportunities in their own communities and beyond. It provides online resources to help nonprofits integrate the power of the Internet into their planning. It also maintains a clearinghouse of information and resources on the issue of the "digital divide" and lists grant opportunities.

### Publishers' Catalogues Home Page

[www.lights.com/publisher/](http://www.lights.com/publisher/)

Hundreds of publishers from countries across the globe are represented on this site. Those included are publishers who choose to participate in the directory. Visitors are able to browse by city, state, country, type of material and topic.

## Newbery/Caldecott/King/Printz winners

Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *Bud, Not Buddy* (Delacorte Press) and Simms Taback, illustrator of *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* (Viking) have won the 2000 John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott Medals, respectively. The awards were announced at the American Library Association midwinter meeting in San Antonio.

The Newbery and Caldecott Medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the U.S. during the previous year. Curtis was doubly honored, for he also received the Coretta Scott King Author Award, which recognizes excellence by African-American authors.

In addition, ALA awarded for the first time the Michael L. Printz Award, recognizing excellence in literature for young adults. This year's award went to Walter Dean Myers, author of *Monster* (HarperCollins), illustrated by Christopher Myers.

## Missouri Library News

*newsline* welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

### St. Louis County Library branch hosts Teen Trivia Nite

Forty-four teens participated in the first Teen Trivia Nite at the Florissant Valley Branch of St. Louis County Library. Held last fall, the event was deemed a huge success by library staff as well as the participants.

Each team was made up of four to six players, and they were charged to answer 10 questions in eight minutes. The categories covered a range from music and musicians to science and technology. The teens used the library's reference room and other resources to find answers.

Library staff served pizza and soda after the contest, and gave awards to the winning team and attendance prizes to all who played.

The library received many donations from the community to support the contest.

### Camden County Library starts building project

Next summer, Camden County Library will open a \$1 million facility in Camden-ton. The new building, at 20,000 square feet, will be almost three times the size of the current library and will include a large children's area, a genealogy room, two meeting rooms, lobby space for local exhibits and literature displays, and a remote drive-up book return. It will accommodate about 50,000 volumes.

The library board purchased five acres so the library can be enlarged to meet the growing needs of the mid-Missouri county. The library operates branches in five communities.

### New library system for Pulaski County

On January 1, 2000, the Waynesville, Richland, and Crocker branches of the Kinderhook Regional Library will join to

become the new Pulaski County Library District. The two library boards agreed in 1999 to undertake local administration of their respective county branches.

According to Waynesville branch librarian Sharon Hamby, the library is planning an addition to the branch that will double the size of the building and add parking space.

Construction has already begun on a new building for Richland, which will increase the size of the library from 2,500 to 7,000 square feet. The building is slated for opening in the spring.

Other improvements in facilities and services are also planned.

### Polk County Library Friends sponsor book discussion series

The Friends of the Polk County Library is again sponsoring a book discussion series in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council. This year's theme, "The Human Spirit Rising Above Adversity," was chosen because it is a common human experience and because current literature on the bestseller lists explores the topic. Books selected for the series include *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom, *I, Rigoberta Manchuo*; *An Indian Woman in Guatemala* by Rigoberta Manchuo, and *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. Scholars from Southwest Baptist University and Southwest Missouri State University will lead the book discussions.

### Municipal libraries' catalog available online

The St. Louis Municipal Library Consortium has announced that its catalog is now accessible using the Internet. Users who wish access to the 500,000-volume collection of the eight-member consortium may type in <http://ucpl.lib.mo-us:5555>, or they may reach it through any of the member libraries' home pages. Dial-up access is also an option.

Member libraries include: Brentwood Public Library, Ferguson Public Library,



Maplewood Public Library, Rock Hill Public Library, Richmond Heights Public Library, Kirkwood Public Library, University City Public Library, and Valley Park Public Library.

## Kirkwood Public library selected for two national humanities programs

The Kirkwood Public Library is one of 14 libraries selected nationwide to participate in the **Prime Time Family Reading Time** reading, discussion, and storytelling series offered by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in partnership with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The project is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

A partnership from each library consisting of a library coordinator, humanities scholar, storyteller, and statewide organization representative will attend a training workshop in February in New Orleans. The workshop will include discussion on humanities and children's literature, literacy, and children's literature and the connection between libraries, humanities, and literacy.

Prime Time, based on illustrated children's books, is designed specifically for underserved families with children to help them bond around the act of reading and learning together. It teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics and aids them in selecting books and becoming active public library users.

Each Prime Time series will take place once a week for six weeks. Reading and discussion leaders will conduct 90-minute sessions at public libraries for parents and their children. At each session, a storyteller will present stories and will model reading aloud. A humanities scholar will serve as discussion leader. The library representative will introduce families to library resources and services. Younger siblings will participate in separate pre-reading activities.

Discussion themes will cover the follow-

ing topics: "Oral Tradition," "Fairness," "Greed," "Courage," "Dreams," and "Cleverness."

Kirkwood Public also was one of 20 public libraries nationwide to receive a \$1,000 grant to host the new "Let's Talk About It: The Next Generation of Reading and Discussion Programs for Libraries" series. The grant was awarded by NEH and the ALA Public Programs Office. It will support a local scholar honorarium and program and promotion costs.

Let's Talk About It, a reading and discussion model developed by ALA in the 1980s, focuses on reading a common series of texts, chosen by a nationally known scholar, and a discussion theme in the context of a larger theme. Over the past 15 years, the model has been adopted, and adapted, by hundreds of libraries throughout the country.

Three new themes have been developed for the new series: "End of the World or World Without End: Readings for the Millennium," "Long Gone: The Literature and Culture of African American Migration," and "One Vision, Many Voices: Latino Literature in the U.S."



**Flash these cards! Danny Dye, graphic artist for the Springfield-Greene County Library, designed a four-color rendering of a high-tech book for the library's third-generation plastic card (left), and Tammy Thiebert, graphic artist for the St. Louis County Library created a dramatic blue and white design for the library's latest card.**



## American presidents videos available online

The Library of Congress has made available on its website ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)) a series of video segments from "American Presidents: Life Portraits," produced by the C-SPAN public service cable network. From the launch of "American Presidents," C-SPAN has relied on the Library of Congress for guest experts and documentary materials. The series includes interviews with Library of Congress curators and makes extensive use of the Library's manuscript collections, which include the papers of 23 presidents.

Video segments on presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James Polk, Millard Fillmore, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, and Woodrow Wilson are currently available through the Library's website.

New segments will go online as they are produced and aired by C-SPAN.

## National Leadership Grants

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is offering National Leadership Grants for collaborations between libraries and museums. The collaborations program supports innovative projects that model how museums and libraries can work together to expand their service to the public with emphasis on how technology is used, education is enhanced, or the community is served. Application deadline is April 1, 2000.

Further information and applications are available at <http://www.ims.gov>.



## IMLS introduces new e-mail newsletter

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched a monthly e-mail newsletter titled *The Primary Source*. The newsletter will explore how museums and libraries across the country use IMLS awards to further their service to the public. It will provide the latest information about IMLS activities, grant programs, and publications, and showcase best practices.

If you are interested in reading or receiving *The Primary Source*, go to the IMLS web-site at [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov) and link to "Publications and Resources."

## Maryville Public Library receives gift for restoration

Restoration of the original ornate ceiling in the People's Room of the Maryville Public Library will become part of the Library 2000 Project, thanks to a gift from local library supporters. Library director Diane Houston said the gift will make possible the removal of the suspended ceiling, the restoration of the original ceiling, which is 10 to 12 feet higher, and the installation of a 6- by 30-foot skylight where a new wing joins the old building. The skylight will help illuminate the new circulation desk area.

Donors for the \$66,000 restoration project include Rebecca Bell, Madelyn Bell Ewing, Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson Ewing, and an anonymous donor.

The Library 2000 Project began in April 1998 to expand and preserve the 86-year-old Maryville library with the construction of a 5,000-square-foot addition. The addition is named the Lela Hackney Bell and Charles R. Bell Wing in honor of the Bell's longtime work for the library as members of its board of trustees from the late 1940s to the late 1960s.

## St. Louis Public Library undertakes expansion project

A \$25 million plan to expand St. Louis Public Library's crowded Central Library is just getting under way with the move of some library services to a nearby building.

About four years ago, the library purchased the 168,000-square-foot Farm Credit building west of the 87-year-old Central Library with a major expansion in mind. Already the library has moved its computer training center to the building called Central Library West.

Dr. Glen Holt, the library's executive director, said the expansion project will be privately financed and will take about five to seven years to complete.

Plans for the historically significant Central Library call for renovating damaged areas in the building, making the

building and its collections easier to use for patrons, especially the disabled, and making the stack areas fire proof and earthquake proof. The Central Library will remain a research and reference center, and will house collections on St. Louis history, genealogy, business, science, and technology as well as its rare book collection and government documents collection, which dates to the mid-1800s.

Central Library West will house an expanded Children's Center, the fiction and popular nonfiction collections, and collections of records, sheet music, videos, and CDs. Some library staff also will move to the building. A restaurant in the newer building will be expanded and opened to library patrons and the general public.

## Joint project preserves Ozark folk songs

The late Max Hunter, well known in folklore circles for his years of collecting Ozark folk music, began recording songs in the mid-1950s using a magnetic wire recorder. Over a period of some 40 years in a four-state area, he taped 2,200 songs, 15 hours of jokes, 360 fiddle tunes, 1,250 proverbial expressions, and numerous monologues and conversations. He gave his original recordings to the Springfield-Greene County Library where staff transferred the collection to audiocassette for patron use.

In 1998, Dr. Michael F. Murray of the Southwest Missouri State University Department of Music, directed further preservation of the Hunter collection by digitizing the format and distributing it through the Internet, available on both SMSU's and the Springfield library's web-sites ([www.smsu.edu/folksong/maxhunter/](http://www.smsu.edu/folksong/maxhunter/)).

Currently, one-seventh of the collection can be downloaded or played through computerized audio playback software. Most of the songs have an annotated musical score, the complete lyrics, and Hunter's cross reference notations.

Now some 90 compact discs preserve

this important resource and may be used by anyone interested in Ozark folk heritage. The collection also has been selected by the Library of Congress for its Local Legacies Project, part of the library's bicentennial celebration.

## Webster County Library opens satellite branch

Webster County Library has opened a branch in a separate part of Fordland Middle School Library. Librarian Lib Sims said the branch is the library's "first big outreach to put a collection in another part of the county." "It provides better service to a tax-paying part of the county that is short on library access."

The collection contains 2,000 volumes, with 600 volumes housed there permanently and others rotated in and out every three months. The library staff selects titles to appeal to all age groups. Materials requested by patrons are delivered each week. Three computers with Internet access are available, and the school district provides three additional computers for public use.

The Fordland library also has started a special reading program for teens with a different focus every month of the school year. On the last Tuesday of each month, teens meet in the library to discuss their readings with adult volunteers.

Opening the branch was made possible by a grant from the State Library to the county library and the school district.

## State joins "Little House" lawsuit

Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon has joined the Wright County Library's fight to recover the income from copyrights willed to it by author Laura Ingalls Wilder. Nixon has filed a motion to intervene on the side of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Library in Mansfield and the Wright County Library Board in a suit filed by the board in October against the publishers and the current owners of the copyrights.

In its suit, the board asked to have the library declared the sole and legitimate beneficiary of Wilder's estate, which has been estimated to be in the millions. Defendants in the library's suit include MacBride's estate, his daughter, Abigail MacBride Allen, and HarperCollins, Wilder's publisher.

The issue involves Wilder's will, which granted the library all proceeds from her books after the death of her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane. However, Lane died with no survivors and willed her estate to a friend, Roger Lea MacBride.

MacBride, a lawyer, made no mention of the library's right to Wilder's copyrights when settling Lane's estate and told the library it was entitled to only a little more than \$28,000 in royalties. By 1972, MacBride had assumed the copyrights to all 11 of Wilder's books.

Nixon also has filed a suit in state court alleging fraud in the probate estate of Wilder.

This suit in Wright County probate court alleges fraud against the MacBride estate, including Joe Cox, the representative of the estate, and Harry Dingman, personal representative of Wilder's estate. Nixon says MacBride and Dingman defrauded the library and the Wright County Probate Court by representing to the board that \$28,011 were the only royalties to which it was entitled. In 1972, they reopened the Wilder estate to renew Wilder's copyright and then transferred the copyrights to MacBride, unbeknownst to the library.

Nixon is asking the court to establish a trust and order the defendants to pay the people of Missouri, through the library, the amounts owed to them, including the royalties from Wilder's 11 books, revenue from the original works, literary and dramatic adaptations, merchandising, and other income-producing activities.

State law authorizes the Attorney General to represent the people of Missouri in matters related to organizations that benefit the public, such as public libraries.



## Children's book review resource online

Readers of *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, a monthly review journal of books for youth, have long turned to this prestigious publication for the best available criticism and evaluation of children's literature. Published by the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, *The Bulletin* is newly available as an online database of reviews. This feature, which is provided at no additional cost to print subscribers, allows an enhanced access and searchability not possible in a print format.

More information, including journal subscription rates and a link to a sample of *The Bulletin Online*, can be found at <http://edfu.lib.uiuc.edu/puboff/bccb/>.

More Library News





### Quarter-century projections for Missouri's population

New population projections for Missouri and Missouri counties through the year 2025 indicate that Missouri's total population will reach 6 million some time between 2015 and 2020. The state's total population is expected to reach 6,182,539 by the year 2525. Missouri's current population is just over 5.4 million.

Additional information about the latest population projections for the state and counties within the state is available online at [www.oa.state.mo.us/bp/projections/index.htm](http://www.oa.state.mo.us/bp/projections/index.htm).

### Truman Library looks back on the "American Century"

From February 5 through April 15, 2000, the Harry S. Truman Library will host the exhibition "Looking Back on the American Century," which features some of the greatest events and people of the 20th century through the original artifacts they've left behind.

From Charles Lindberg's flight suit and Amelia Earhart's pilot's license to James Dean's motorcycle and a stage suit worn by Elvis, more than three dozen artifacts highlight this one-of-a-kind exhibition. Also on display will be a propeller from the Wright Brothers' airplane, the original safety plug from the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, a full-size Model-T Roadster, and the 1932 Academy Award presented to Walt Disney for the creation of Mickey Mouse.

Photographs of many of the major events and personalities of the century will complement the artifacts.

"Looking Back on the American Centu-

ry" is both a retrospective of the past 100 years and a representation of the kind of important historic artifacts that will be featured at the Truman Library in the future," said Truman Library director Larry Hackman. "The show represents the final exhibition to be featured at the Truman Library before it undergoes an extensive renovation to create new permanent exhibits as well as a multimedia Learning Center on Decision Making and Citizenship."

Library renovations will begin in May 2000. New permanent exhibitions and the Learning Center will help transform the Truman Library into its revitalized role as a "Classroom for Democracy."

### Readers' Choice Awards

The Friends of Libraries U.S.A. has announced the winners of its 1999 Readers' Choice Awards. This national contest is based on the same concept as the Academy Awards, the Emmys, and the People's Choice, except that *readers* choose the books they enjoyed reading the most. The 1999 winners:

- Fiction: *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb (Harper-Collins)
- Non-fiction: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (Broadway)
- Autobiography: *Still Me* by Christopher Reeve (Random House)
- Mystery/Thriller: *N is for Noose* by Sue Grafton (Holt)
- Romance: *The Long Road Home* by Danielle Steel (Dell)
- Science Fiction: *Children of God* by Mary Doria Russell (Villard)
- Self-Help: *Mrs. Greenthumbs Plows Ahead* by Cassandra Danz (Crown)



President Franklin D. Roosevelt with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin at the Yalta Conference in February 1945. President Roosevelt's boat cloak, similar to the one he wore to Yalta, is one of the more than three dozen historic artifacts on display in the Harry S. Truman Library's newest exhibit. (Truman Library photo)



## "You Count" campaign aimed at full count in Census 2000

Secretary of State Bekki Cook has announced a special "You Count" campaign aimed at making sure hard-to-count Missourians are included in Census 2000.

Cook, who is chair of the Missouri Complete Count Committee, said her committee, local complete count committees, and census staff want to build partnerships with all individuals and organizations in the state that work with citizens who have traditionally not been counted, such as the poor and the homeless. In 1990, an estimated 32,000 Missourians were not counted, resulting in the loss of more than \$20 million annually in federal funds allocated on the basis of census information.

"The only way to make sure we have an accurate count is to form partnerships with the grassroots organizations that are already working in Missouri and have the confidence of citizens we are trying to reach," said Cook.

Another component of the "You Count" effort is to make sure that immigrants re-

siding in the state are counted, and that individuals with disabilities or low literacy know where they can go for assistance in filling out census forms.

"As we have traveled around the state talking about 'You Count,' we have increased awareness about the importance of a full count," said Cook. "We simply cannot afford to have another undercount in next year's census. The services that can be provided by accessing Missouri's full share of funding are too important to miss for another decade."

Cook said it is ironic that the citizens who often go uncanceled are the ones who stand to benefit the most from additional funds that would be available with a complete count.

"You Count" programs will be promoted in Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, St. Louis, the Bootheel, and any other area where there is the potential for an undercount in this year's census.

United States  
**Census  
2000**



### Public library "Tech Notes" on the Web

The Public Library Association has released a series of 10 Web-based "Tech Notes." This new series of "mini" Web publications provides technical information on issues affecting the planning, support, and delivery of public library services using contemporary computer technology. "Tech Notes" also supplement "Wired for the Future: Developing Your Library Technology Plan," a recent PLA publication.

Among the titles are: "Digital Object Identifier (DOI): The Persistence of Memory"; "Intranets: The Web Inside"; "Metadata: Always More Than You Think"; "Push Technology: Pushed to the Brink"; and "Digital Disaster Planning."

"Tech Notes" are available at no cost on the PLA Web page at [www.pla.org](http://www.pla.org).

## A major step toward digital talking books

The Library of Congress moved one step closer to production of digital talking books for users of its National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) with the recent installation of a state-of-the-art recording facility. The new studio follows installation of a digital duplication system at the library's facility in Cincinnati earlier this year.

"These initiatives represent the library's long-term commitment to develop digital technology for blind and physically handicapped individuals," said NLS director Frank Kurt Cylke. "The new digital recording and duplication facilities will permit NLS to develop specifications for

a digital mastering and duplication system. The results of this prototype effort—and a second system to obtain experience with alternative mastering systems—will be the technical specifications that will be used to produce digital talking books and magazines."

In October 1999, NLS announced a milestone for its braille readers when the first digital braille book was accessed on the Internet. The technological breakthrough signaled a successful two-year effort to develop an Internet distribution system for braille books in the collection. More than 2,700 braille books created by the library are now available for download or online use by eligible individuals, libraries, and schools with braille embossers, refreshable braille displays, and other braille-aware devices.

*“Many Americans are historians without being aware of it. Each of us has stories we pass, like heirlooms, from generation to generation. Through these stories, we connect with our families, our past and our hopes for the future.”*

William R. Ferris,  
Chairman

National Endowment for  
the Humanities

## National humanities project connects family stories to America's history

Follow your family's story and you will discover America's history. That is the theme of "My History Is America's History," an exciting new project created by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to mark the new millennium.

The project includes 15 things you can do to save America's stories in the My History guidebook and website, and outlines simple, easy-to-follow steps to preserve stories and treasures. Among the tools are sample questions for drawing out relatives' memories; tips on preserving family treasures such as photographs, furniture, and videotapes; and classroom and family projects to give children a personal connection to American history. A listing of national and local resources such as historical sites and societies, exhibits, and genealogical groups is also provided.

The website ([www.myhistory.org](http://www.myhistory.org)) is designed as a virtual "front porch" for fami-

lies to exchange stories, post photographs, create family trees, and discover our families' place in history. Genealogy.com, a leading provider of family history tools and resources, has shared its technological expertise in the genealogy field for the My History Is America's History project.

The My History Is America's History guidebook may be downloaded from the project website. NEH has also distributed printed guidebooks to libraries for patron use.

My History Is America's History is a nationwide initiative of NEH in partnership with the White House Millennium Council, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Genealogy.com, LLC, PSINet Inc., National Association of Broadcasters, U.S. Department of Education, Heritage Preservation, Family-Fun, and Houghton Mifflin Company.

## Small publishers—a major force in the book industry

The Book Industry Study Group and the Publishers Marketing Association have issued the first comprehensive study of small and independent publishers. It is an innovative study within the industry in that it focuses on smaller publishers rather than the major conglomerates.

The study, "The Rest of Us," finds that small presses constitute a big segment of the industry, and one that is rapidly growing, with 39 percent of those surveyed in business for just five years or less. The smaller and independent publishers showed an estimated \$14.3 billion in revenues in 1997 and an estimated 1,102,813 titles-in-print for 1997, almost four-fifths (77 percent) of the 1,433,762 titles listed in Books in Print that year. Additionally,

smaller presses keep their backlists active for years.

The study shows that publishers in business six to 14 years are still selling more than three-quarters of all the titles they have ever published. Smaller publishers appear to reap the rewards of backlist promotion with cumulative sales over time. A third of the smaller publishers' most successful titles sell a million copies or more.

The study is based on a 14-question survey sent to 53,479 independent smaller publishers. Respondents to the survey on which the study is based ranged from brand-new companies that have not yet released their first titles to companies that have been in business more than half a century and have tens of thousands of titles in print. And they span a sales spectrum from under \$100,000 to \$10 million or more annually.

## 2000 Missouri Youth Library Program

"Turn Over a New Leaf. READ," the theme of the 2000 Missouri Youth Library Program, incorporates two distinct thematic components. As a Missouri envi-



ronmental theme, the 2000 program complements the Missouri Department of Conservation's Centennial Celebration of the Forestry Division (see following article).

And as a "new beginning" theme, the program will inspire families to explore the world around them and to discover the endless possibilities that await them in the pages of books.

In keeping with the nature theme, the Summer Library Program Committee selected David Besenger of Holts Summit to create artwork for the program. Besenger is an artist for the Missouri Department of Conservation where he produces illustrations for the *Missouri Conservationist* and other department publications. He has also provided art for Ralston Purina, the National Wildlife Federation, and Stackpole Books.

## Centennial forests celebration

Missouri's forests provide us with many benefits—things like lumber, food, wildlife, beautiful scenery, and places to go hiking, camping, and nature watching. Some of these benefits are not so obvious, like oxygen production, carbon dioxide storage, protecting hillsides from erosion, and helping to moderate our climate. One thing is certain—we all need trees.

The forests we enjoy today are much different from the forests of 100 years ago. Missouri was in the midst of a logging boom in 1900. The pine forests of

the Ozarks attracted lumbermen from the East. From about 1880 until 1920, Missouri was one of the leading lumber-producing states in the nation. Huge sawmills produced building lumber, shingles, molding, and railroad ties for a growing nation.

Not much thought was given to forest conservation. After the forest was cut over, unemployed loggers were left to scratch out a living on the rocky hillsides. The woods were burned every year to encourage grass for their open range livestock, and wildlife was hunted year-round.

By the mid-1920s, people began to notice the depleted resources. Citizen groups moved to action and by the mid-30s, there was a Conservation Department and a national forest in Missouri. Nationally, the Society of American Foresters was organized in 1900. This group, representing the forestry profession, is dedicated to the wise management of our forests.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Society of American Foresters. The Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Society of American Foresters are planning a Centennial Forests celebration to recognize the recovery of our forests and the many contributions forests make to society.

The theme for the 2000 Missouri summer reading program is "Turn Over a New Leaf: READ!" This program offers an excel-



lent way for libraries to get young people involved in the Centennial Forests celebration. To help support this theme, the Conservation Department is offering materials such as posters for bulletin boards, a list of resource people, and promotional items to give away as reading incentives.

For more information on Centennial Forests, contact Bruce Palmer, Forestry Education Coordinator, 573-751-4115, ext. 113; [palmeb@mail.conservation.state.mo.us](mailto:palmeb@mail.conservation.state.mo.us).

## Upcoming Events



### February 8-9

13th Annual Missouri Library Day  
Jefferson City

### March 2

Read Across America Day

### March 3-5

Library Leadership Academy  
Excelsior Springs

### March 23

Secretary's Council on Library Development Meeting  
Jefferson City

### March 28-April 1

Public Library Association Conference  
Charlotte, NC

### April 6-7

MOREnet Education & Technology Conference  
Osage Beach

### April 9-11

Missouri Association of School Librarians Spring Conference  
Osage Beach

### April 9-15

National Library Week

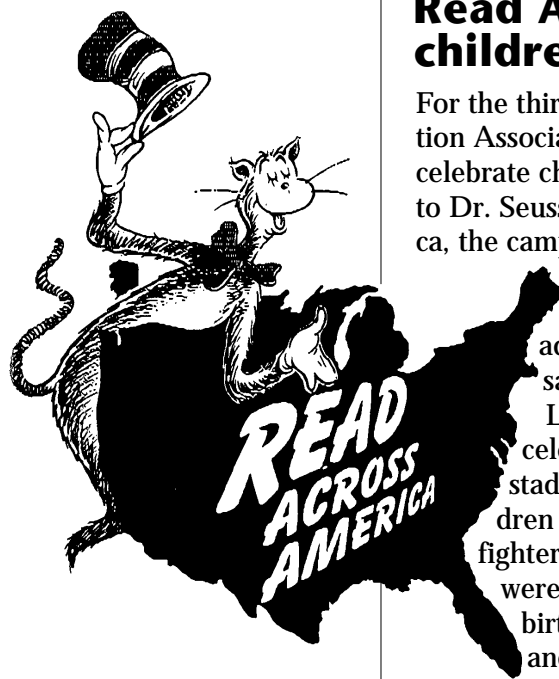
### April 11

Thank You Day in Missouri

### April 15

Friends of Wolfner Library Annual Meeting  
Jefferson City





## Read Across America campaign celebrates children's reading

For the third year, the National Education Association is asking the nation to celebrate children's reading with a salute to Dr. Seuss. Called Read Across America, the campaign invites every child in

every community across the country to read with a caring adult on March 2, the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Last year, 20 million children celebrated reading on ships, in stadiums, and in schools. Children read with police officers, firefighters, nurses, and judges. There were pajama parties in libraries, birthday bashes in bookstores, and read-a-thons in state capitols. In Missouri, Governor Car-

nahan and First Lady Jean Carnahan led the state celebration, and in cities and towns across the state, other elected officials and local dignitaries participated in the celebration.

This year, NEA's birthday bash promises to be the biggest yet. Rock stars will read with children at the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in Ohio. The Cat in the Hat will ring the opening bell on the New York Stock Exchange, and hundreds of thousands of teachers and librarians across the country are planning their own celebrations.

For some examples of how libraries can be involved, check out the Read Across America website at [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

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